

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Lorenza Perez Aguilar and I have been living in Hartford for 4 years with my family. I and my 4 children were born in Guatemala, and I have 2 more children born here. I am a member of the Hartford Deportation Defense and I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

My children born in Guatemala are 15, 12, 10, and 6 years old. None of them have health insurance. We know that last year they got HUSKY until age 8 and fortunately that will cover my 6 year old daughter who has had the most health problems. Unfortunately she still doesn't have insurance because the law doesn't start until 2023.

Paying for her physicals is something that is a bit complicated for me. With the older children we haven't had any complications, but from experience with my 6-year-old daughter we know that this can happen at any time. If that happens, if they need an operation, we are not going to be able to pay the hospital bill. If they get sick with a serious illness, I won't be able to pay for it because we don't have health insurance. With my younger children who do have insurance, I see that it's different with them. My 10-year-old son was born premature in Guatemala and I would like to be able to take him for more check ups because he needs speech support and he is a little underweight. I can't seek that help because we don't have insurance and we can't afford to pay for it out of pocket.

That is why we are asking you to support S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. It is very important because if something happens to my children, I will not be able to pay for it. I want them to grow up well, see them develop and have a better future.

Thank you for your time,
Lorenza Perez Aguilar